



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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DEEP-WATER GROUPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL CLOSE AT 12:01 A.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 2, 2007

NOAA Fisheries Service is closing the commercial deep-water grouper fishery in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico at **12:01 a.m., local time, on June 2, 2007.**

Based on current statistics, NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the available commercial quota of 1.02 million pounds for deep-water grouper (misty grouper, snowy grouper, yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, and speckled hind) will be reached on or before June 2, 2007.

The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit having deep-water grouper aboard must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such deep-water grouper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, June 2, 2007.

The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of deep-water grouper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, June 2, 2007, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

The fishery will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2008. During the closure, commercial

vessels with commercial quantities of reef fish on board are prohibited from retaining a recreational bag limit. Thus, a vessel may only have a commercial quantity of reef fish or a recreational bag limit of reef fish.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office (SERO) recognizes fishery management actions are complex and often difficult to understand. SERO is dedicated to providing information to the public in a simple and easy to understand format through the use of fishery bulletins and other materials. If you have any suggestions on how SERO may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:

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